

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
Tatsuhiko EMA, et al.) Prior Group Art Unit: 1734
)
Cont. of Application No.: 10/302,894 (*filed*)) Prior Examiner: Lazor, Michelle A.
November 25, 2002)
)
Filed: Herewith)
)
For: DEPOSITION METHOD,)
DEPOSITION APPARATUS, AND)
PRESSURE-REDUCTION DRYING)
APPARATUS)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. Applicants file this Information Disclosure Statement together with the above-referenced continuation application.

Copies of the listed documents were previously submitted by Applicants or cited by the Examiner in prior application Nos. 10/302,894, filing date November 25, 2002, and 09/735,553 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,506,453), filing date December 14, 2000, upon which Applicants rely for the benefits provided in 35 U.S.C. § 120. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

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The following is a concise statement of relevance of the non-English language documents cited.

1. Japanese Patent Application No. 5-136042 discloses spin coating that has a temperature control apparatus.
2. Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-77326 discloses a spin coating method (Fig. 3 of page 12) that does not have temperature control apparatus for an edge area of the wafer.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists, and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and Applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: October 31, 2003

By: 

David M. Longo
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

Atty. Docket No.	04329.2473-02	Cont. of Appln. No.	10/302,894
Applicant	Tatsuhiko EMA, et al.		
Filing Date	Herewith	Prior Group:	1734

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate
	6,072,162	06/2000	Ito et al.			
	6,200,633	03/2001	Kitano et al.			
	6,162,745	12/2000	Ito et al.			
	6,231,917	05/2001	Ito et al.			
	5,902,399	05/1999	Courtenay, Robert William			
	5,580,607	12/1996	Takekuma et al.			
	6,317,642 B1	11/2001	You et al.			
	5,932,009	08/1999	Kim et al.			
	6,322,626	11/2001	Shirley, Paul D.			
	6,410,080	06/2002	Ito			
	6,261,365	07/2001	Matsuyama et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Document Number	Publication Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation Yes or No
5-136042	6/1/93	Japan			No
2000-77326	3/14/00	Japan			No

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

Examiner	Date Considered
*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	
Form PTO 1449	Patent and Trademark Office - U.S. Department of Commerce